

a coin discriminator configured to receive at least a portion of the plurality of coins from the input region, the coin discriminator being configured to discriminate between acceptable coins and unacceptable coins;
a voucher dispenser configured to dispense the redeemable voucher; and
a communications facility configured to transmit information from the coin counting apparatus to a central computer, wherein the information is related to the redeemable voucher.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the information transmitted from the coin counting apparatus by the communications facility includes information usable to verify the authenticity of the redeemable voucher.

75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the information transmitted from the coin counting apparatus by the communications facility includes information related to a plurality of transactions performed by the coin counting apparatus.

76. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the voucher dispenser is configured to dispense a voucher that is redeemable at a point of sale in a non-bank retail location in exchange for products sold at the retail location.

77. (Previously Presented) ~~An apparatus for counting coins comprising:~~ *m3*
~~an input region configured to receive a plurality of randomly oriented coins from a user;~~
~~a vibrating coin feeder configured to receive at least a portion of the plurality of coins from the input region;~~
~~a coin discriminator configured to receive the portion of coins from the vibrating coin feeder, the coin discriminator being configured to identify acceptable coins;~~
~~at least one coin receptacle configured to receive at least a portion of the acceptable coins from the coin discriminator; and~~

~~a communications facility configured to transmit information from the coin counting apparatus to a remote computer, wherein the information is related to the amount of coins in the coin receptacle.~~ *MB*

78. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 77, further comprising a user interface configured to receive a request for a redeemable voucher.

79. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 77 wherein the communications facility is configured to transmit a signal to the central computer when the coin receptacle is at least generally full of acceptable coins.

80. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 77 further comprising a voucher dispenser configured to dispense a voucher that is redeemable at a point of sale in a non-bank retail location in exchange for products sold at the retail location.

81. (Canceled)

82. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for counting coins comprising: *MB*
an input region configured to receive a plurality of randomly oriented coins from a user;
a user interface configured to receive a request for a redeemable voucher;
a vibrating coin feeder configured to receive at least a portion of the plurality of coins from the input region; and
a coin discriminator configured to receive the portion of coins from the vibrating coin feeder, the coin discriminator being configured to discriminate between acceptable coins and unacceptable coins.

83. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 82 wherein the coin discriminator is configured to determine a total of the acceptable coins, and wherein the apparatus further comprises a voucher dispenser configured to dispense a redeemable voucher for a value related to the total.

~~84. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 82 further comprising a voucher dispenser configured to dispense a voucher that is redeemable at a point of sale in a non-bank retail location in exchange for products sold at the retail location.~~ *mb*

85. (Previously Presented) A system for counting coins in a coin counting machine, the system comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of randomly oriented coins in an input region of the coin counting machine;

means for receiving a request for a redeemable voucher;

means for discriminating at least a portion of the received coins with the coin discriminator to distinguish acceptable coins from unacceptable coins;

means for transferring at least a portion of the acceptable coins to a coin receptacle; and

means for communicating information from the coin counting machine to a central computer, wherein the communicated information is related to a status of the coin receptacle.

86. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 85 wherein the means for communicating information from the coin counting machine includes means for transmitting a signal when the coin receptacle is at least generally full of acceptable coins.

87. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 85, further comprising means for dispensing a redeemable voucher for an amount related to the acceptable coins.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, further comprising means for dispatching a person to empty the coin receptacle in response to receiving the information communicated to the central computer.

89. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for counting coins comprising:
an input region configured to receive a plurality of randomly oriented coins from a user;